

Implementation Achievements To Date

Most of the over 600 initiatives from the FOCUS Kansas City Plan are currently being implemented by the Mayor, City Council, city staff, and by many community organizations. Some of the most notable implementation efforts follow:

FOCUS Centers:

There are 8 locations currently operating as **FOCUS** Centers at this time. Two of the Centers are in City owned buildings, two are in schools, and two are with active community-based organizations operating as CDCs. There are also **FOCUS** Centers in the new MainCor building at the Midtown Market Place. and in the new Westside Branch Library, as part of a satellite of services for that area. Two centers for the 6th District will be palced within the Bannister Mall Community Improvement District and at 99th and Holmes. The centers allow the opportunity for government services to be provided in the community.

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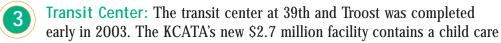
Neighborhood Self-Assessment Process: The assessment process identi-

fied in the *FOCUS* Neighborhood

Prototype *Plan* has been completed, reaching 300 neighborhoods and engaging over 5,000 city residents. The neighborhood self-assessment process classified neighborhoods according to four different categories



depending on their condition: conservation, stabilization, developing, and redevelopment. Residents also identified priorities by developing "to do" lists for the City, neighborhood and neighborhood partners.



facility, office space, indoor bus passenger waiting area, and other community amenities to serve the metropolitan area's busiest transit transfer stop at 39th Street and Troost Avenue. The City of Kansas City and the KCMC Child Development Corporation worked together in creating this needed facility that was



highlighted in the **FOCUS Urban Core Plan** and the **Troost Corridor Plan**.



Renovation of the Liberty Memorial was completed through the community's overwhelming support of a half-cent sales tax for capital improvements that raised over \$45 million dollars and expired after only 18 months.



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Zoning:

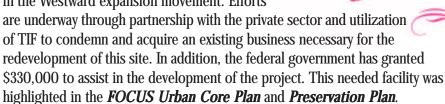
A zoning ordinance protecting business development in the Brookside retail shopping area is intended to help maintain the mixed-use character of the neighborhood.





Town of Kansas: To date, the City has completed a Conceptual Development Master Plan, extensive archaeological research, acquired the property, and completed a Market Analysis. The park will conduct ongoing archaeological

field study allowing visitors to participate and learn through the processes of science about Kansas City's and the nation's history and role in the Westward expansion movement. Efforts



- The community-based Kansas City Safe-City Initiative makes Kansas City, Missouri the first city in the country to bring all of our emergency services, city departments, community resources and neighborhoods together in one unified safety system with an emphasis on multi-layered geographic based analysis and prevention.
 - Following the **FOCUS** process, safety professionals, individuals, business owners, representatives of neighborhoods and community based organizations came together to create the *KC Safe City Initiative Plan*, which was adopted by City Council.
- Two CD-ROMs have been produced to provide an overview of the Plan as well as a searchable CD of the entire Plan.

 This project was generously underwritten by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and in cooperation with the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and Utilicorp Inc.
- Historic District Signs: PIAC funding was obtained to install unique street signs and neighborhood historic district signs in the city's 20-district Register of Historic Places. Promoting our historic areas and neighborhoods and revitalizing those areas is one area of emphasis in the *FOCUS Preservation Plan*.
- The implementation of a Community Anchor Program has been undertaken by a public/private partnership, targeting the City's major corridors, such as Troost Ave., Prospect Blvd., and Brush Creek. In addition, a pilot program is underway to develop a template for increased Anchor involvement in neighborhood revitalization.

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Eastgate Land Use & Development Plan:

The plan was adopted by the City Council in December 2001. The plan identifies four prototype development projects along the Eastgate Corridor including a new mixed-use center that is consistent with **FOCUS** guidelines. The plan also recommends enhancements to the Kansas City Southern railroad bridge, such as decorative lighting and landscaping. The plan proposes design guidelines to assure compatible development which are consistent with the guidelines for the Brush Creek Corridor and **FOCUS**.



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The Kansas City Walkability Plan: This new plan, one of the first of its kind to be produced in the country, proposes to increase the number of people in Kansas City who choose to be pedestrians, by making it easier, more pleasant and more efficient to move around the city without a car at least some of the time. The **FOCUS Kansas City Plan** strongly supports choice in

transportation (multimodal transportation) and recognizes that a "direct, continuous, safe, pleasant, and secure" pedestrian system is a vital step towards creating a multimodal transportation system. The City has been invited by the American Planning Association to a national roundtable on public health and urban design.





Stream Asset Inventory: A key recommendation of the *FOCUS Northland Plan*, the Stream Asset Inventory Study is underway and will assess the condition of natural resources and provide the City with information that will aid in the formation of land use policies. The final product will include a stream inventory report that provides written analysis of an area and an associated map that identifies both constraints to development and suggested priority development zones.

Each proposed development project is now evaluated in Council Committee with regard to its compliance with the FOCUS plan. Several projects, Shoal Creek, Zona Rosa, Beacon Hill, and the Performing Arts Center are underway and in accordance with FOCUS principles.



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The City has completed the first phase of the revision of the zoning ordinance. The second phase, which will combine the zoning ordinance and subdivision regulation into a unified development code, will begin early in 2004.





Create and Implement Bicycle Master Plan:

The City has adopted a Citywide Bicycle Master Plan. As called for in the *FOCUS Kansas City Plan*, the plan is meant to be an important component of a multimodal transportation system.



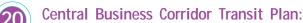


In response to recent changes in State Legislation staff undertook research, analysis and design of a new city program to eliminate demolition liens (waiver of special tax bills). This new program, built upon the recommendations of the *FOCUS Kansas City Plan*, constitutes a new incentive to encourage the redevelopment of vacant properties that were previously subject to financial liens.

The Department of Environmental Management has targeted resources on FOCUS priorities, particularly in tailoring the Clean Sweep Program and working to identify and clean up illegal dump sites.



Vivion Road: Recently, the City has worked with community stakeholders to design a trail along Vivion Road, in keeping with *FOCUS Northland Plan* principles. The initial phases of this project will connect Anita Gorman Park (intersection of Vivion Road and North Oak Trafficway) to the Antioch Shopping Center. This project will provide a new amenity along one of the Northland's main east-west connectors and, over time, the trail will evolve into a transportation corridor, connecting residential areas to retail and recreational facilities through a system of pedestrian and bicycle trails. Eventually, this project will stretch from Riverside to Liberty. To date, this project has received approximately \$750,000 in federal transportation grants, with an additional \$1,2 million planned for 2004 and 2005.



The City completed a plan that defined the route and funding tools for light rail transit, connecting the job corridors of Downtown, Crown Center, Midtown, Country Club Plaza, and Brush Creek to the Northland as well as connecting Hospital Hill, UMKC and Rockhurst University with a route along



Troost Avenue. Implementing a fixed guideway transit system is recommended in **FOCUS** to help strengthen private and public investment in the urban core, form a spine of transit for the region, and connect our citizens to jobs, services and activity centers. Although the plan did not win voter approval, the Area Transportation Authority is pursuing a Bus Rapid Transit system along the same routes. The ATA has completed the environmental impact evaluations, and it is estimated the system will be operational in early 2005.





Beacon Hill Redevelopment:

Construction has begun in this 94-acre development plan designed to redevelop the area as a new, mixed-use neighborhood. This plan follows the

FOCUS Kansas City Plan guidelines for quality places. The plan calls for up to 180 new townhomes, up to 165 new single family houses, rehabilitation of up to 85 singlefamily houses and 25 apartments. Completion is expected by the



year 2007.



Blue Hills Neighborhood Plan: This plan provides a framework for future development within the neighborhood and identifies existing neighborhood problems and possible solutions. To bring this vision to reality, community leaders and residents of the Blue Hills Neighborhood have prepared a Blue Hills Neighborhood Plan that will become an adoptable public policy document to direct the future of the neighborhood. City staff has worked with the neighborhood to ensure that the plan reflects the goals of the **FOCUS Kansas City Plan**.



The Plaza/Westport
Neighborhood Plan: Just
completed, this plan provides
the neighborhood with policy
direction related to land use,
urban design, priority development/ redevelopment areas
and implementation tools.
The policies resulting from
this planning process correspond to the objectives of the



FOCUS Urban Core Plan and assist the City and property owners in supporting desirable development/ redevelopment proposals while providing a supportable defense against projects inconsistent with the plan.



Kansas City Downtown Land Use and Development Plan: The recently adopted **Kansas City**

Downtown Land Use and Development Plan provides the area with policy direction related to land use, urban design, priority development/ redevelopment areas and implementation tools. The policies resulting from this planning process correspond to the objectives of the **FOCUS Urban Core Plan**

and assist the City and property owners in supporting desirable development/ redevelopment proposals while providing a supportable defense against projects

inconsistent with the plan.





FOCUS Implementation

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Kansas City Downtown Streetscape Plan:

The City Planning and Development Department and the Downtown Council has partnered in a planning process to develop adoptable streetscape standards for the Downtown Loop. This plan, which is expect to conclude in the Spring of 2004, will correspond to the objectives of the recently adopted **Downtown** Land Use and Development Plan, will create bold, new streetscape standards for the Downtown and is consistent with the policies of the FOCUS Urban Core Plan.





2nd Street Corridor: The 2nd Street Corridor Planning Process is underway and is expected to provide a detailed assessment of the physical infrastructure of the study area with the purpose of developing a public improvement program and to establish detailed recommendations related to the



area's future infrastructure, streetscape, land use policies and urban design guidelines as highlighted in the *FOCUS Urban Core Plan* and *Connecting Corridors Building Block*.



Heritage Corridor: This initiative will promote heritage tourism as an economic development program through signage, education and regional promotion as highlighted in the *FOCUS Connecting Corridors Building Block and Preservation Plan*. A feasibility study was completed that defines a strategy for the metro area and Kansas City. MARC is a co-sponsor of this initiative. The study will be submitted to Congress for adoption.





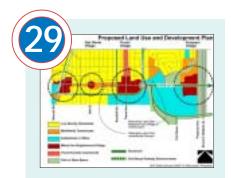
Troost Corridor: Current projects include PIEA redevelopment designation for the area between 30th Street and 39th Streets along Troost; two proposed housing projects in the 35th to 38th area; the fifth season of the Troost Community Market at Linwood and Troost; free outdoor summer movies for the second year; and various individual development projects in the Corridor.





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63rd Street Corridor:

A plan for the 63rd Street Corridor has been adopted, providing recommendations for the improvements to 63rd Street, including: multi-modal transportation, infrastructure, land use, urban design and development opportunities as highlighted in the FOCUS Urban Core Plan and Connecting Corridors Building Block. This plan was recently awarded the 2003 Excellence in Planning Award by the Missouri Chapter of the American Planning Association.





Broadway Corridor: The City Planning and Development Department has been working with the Downtown Council, the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Missouri Department of Transportation and private property owners to make im-



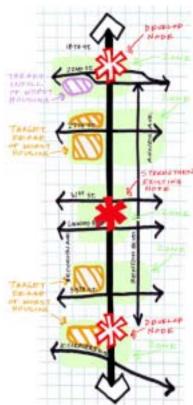
provements. This corridor is an important linkage across the Missouri River and is a key gateway into Kansas City's Downtown and into Kansas City's Northland. Through cooperative efforts, the city has secured over \$2 million of federal construction funds to implement the recommendations of the *FOCUS Urban Core* and *Northland Plans* for this important corridor.



Prospect Corridor Initiative is a community-based planning and implementation initiative for the Prospect Corridor, spanning from 18th to 47th Streets. Using the input and ideas of residents, businesses and institutions, a plan for this corridor has been recently completed. The plan includes a phased development plan with both short and long term implementation strategies. The short term (3+ years) planning phase focuses on a work plan for residents and existing organizations based on **FOCUS**

strategies relating to social services, community anchors, housing, existing businesses, physical framework, lifelong learning and healthy community, and





priority public services. As a result of this plan, the social services in this area is currently being analyzed with the purpose of improving coordination and delivery of services.

FOCUS Implementation

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Main Street Corridor Land Use and Development Plan:

This plan, which was adopted this year, plan includes "big ideas" for identity, edges, preservation, aesthetics, neighborhoods, transportation and land use as highlighted in the FOCUS Urban Core Plan and Connecting Corridors Building Block.





Investment in the Greater Downtown

Area: More than 1,100 housing units have been built or rehabilitated in the greater downtown area in the last five years, with an investment of over \$110 million. In addition, more than 2.5 million square feet of office and retail space have been constructed or renovated. Total investment in the greater downtown area has reached \$1.2 billion, with an additional \$1 billion either approved or underway.



Downtown Community Improvement
District: A community improvement district
has been created for the Downtown Loop. The
district, which annually collects \$1.5 million
through special assessments, provides funding
for downtown clean up and enhanced security.



- Downtown Way-Finding System: Design of the Downtown Way-Finding System is underway. When complete, the system will provide improved directional signage within the downtown area.
- The City successfully implemented the Community Infrastructure Committee's recommendation to set aside \$5 million per year from the general fund for capital maintenance needs. In spite of the recent downturn in the economy, the city continues to allocate \$40 million per year towards deferred maintenance, an increase of \$20-\$25 million since the adoption of the **FOCUS Kansas City Plan**.



Council District Handbooks: In the spring of 2003, City Planning staff prepared handbooks for each of the six council districts, which are designed to provide new and returning council members with an overview of planning and development issues for each district. The handbooks include maps, charts and bullet-point analysis of major issues affecting each district and how **FOCUS** relates to these issues. Information is presented in the context of citywide, regional and national issues relating to planning and development.



- Chouteau TIF Housing Rehabilitation Program: A new program with minor home repair loans in the Northland was made possible by the Chouteau Tax Increment Financing Plan. Based on recommendations of the *FOCUS Northland Plan* to stabilize and enhance existing neighborhoods, the initiative is targeted to assist residents of the Chaumiere and Winnwood/Sunnybrook neighborhoods with making needed repairs to their homes.
- Improving Vehicular and Transit Circulation in the Northland: The Northland parkway system continues to expand as segments of Line Creek Parkway, Shoal Creek Parkway, and Maple Woods Parkway have opened in recent years. Planning is also underway for future extensions of the parkway system including the widening and enhancement of Chouteau Trafficway from M-210 Highway to I-35. Expanding the parkway system and improving the arterial street system is a primary recommendation of the **FOCUS Northland Plan**.
- Kansas City Harmony: Efforts to improve race relations outlined in the *FOCUS Kansas City Plan* have been implemented by this local non-profit organization. Harmony has established mechanisms for dialogue to improve race relations, to increase appreciation for cultural diversity, and to eliminate intolerance within our schools, our places of business and our community. These initiatives support the *Human Investment Plan*.
- Suburban Transit Centers: The Boardwalk Square MetroCenter, the new Northland transit center near the I-29 & Barry Road corridor, began operation in the late summer of 2003. The Boardwalk Square MetroCenter also features 47 parking spaces and other amenities for commuters. This is an effort by the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority to improve ridership of the city's public transit system.
- The Port Authority has been leading the Conversion of Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base into an international freight gateway/intermodal facility, with 500+ acres of potential development. Kansas City Southern Railroad has participated in this effort over \$70 million in private investment.
- The Riverfront Heritage Trail is being implemented in a cooperative effort between the cities of Kansas City, Mo and Kansas City, KS. This trail system will connect many of the historic and cultural resources located throughout the downtown and Riverfront areas.
- A number of arterial improvements have been completed in Kansas City, north, as recommended by the **FOCUS Northland Plan**. Missouri Highway 152, the widening of 68th St. and the extension of Ambassador Drive have been completed in the past five years.
- The City Council has met the **FOCUS** recommendation to **dedicate a percentage of capital improvement funds** to target areas of the city. The **FOCUS Kansas City Plan** recommends that the city set aside 5-10% of capital improvement funding to the Downtown Loop, 5-10% to the Central Business Corridor, 3-5% for mixed use centers, and 20-25% to urban core neighborhoods.





- For the past five years, the City's Consolidated Housing Plan has been prepared based on the recommendations of the *FOCUS Kansas City Plan*. Siting of low and moderate housing and programmatic emphasis have been tailored using plan priorities and neighborhood self-assessment data.
- The City maintained an 8% fund balance reserve equivalent to \$30 million dollars. The recent economic downturn has caused the fund balance reserve to decline from the desired levels. All efforts will be made to restore the fund balance to the levels recommended by the **FOCUS Kansas City Plan**.
- The recommendations of the **FOCUS Kansas City Plan** have been utilized to **evaluate over 7,000 development cases** in the last five years through the City Plan Commission and the Board of Zoning Adjustment.
- Kansas City voters approved the renewal of a two and-a-half cent sales tax for capital improvements. These taxes generate over \$60 million per year and provide funding for construction and maintenance of the city's basic infrastructure.
- Jackson County voters approved the renewal of the Community Backed Anti-Drug Tax (COMBAT). This unique effort enables the community to provide funding for drug treatment and prevention, as well as drug-related law enforcement activities.
- Work is currently underway in the Municipal Stadium site, a project that will provide new housing within the Washington Wheatley neighborhood. This project will complement the city's investment in the 18th and Vine District and will provide a unique residential alternative in the urban core.
- Ethics training is now required for all city employees and city officials, as recommended by the **FOCUS**Governance Plan.
- The role of the City Communication Office has been expanded, providing greater coverage of City Council activities through Channel 2 and allowing members of the public to provide feedback and testimony during public hearings through the internet.
- The City has maintained a strong AA municipal bond rating, demonstrating the city's financial strength while at the same time allowing the city to obtain credit at favorable interest rates.

